GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2764
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
CLOSURE OF OFFICES BY AI/IA
B.K. PARTHASARATHI;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of offices of Air India and Indian Airlines currently operating abroad;

(b) whether AI/IA has decided to shut down its offices in Europe and hand over the marketing work to general sales agents;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and details thereof;

(d) whether the new policy runs contrary to laid down norms; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): Air India is presently having 46 online and 41 offline offices in abroad. Besides this, they have also 7 sales representatives abroad.

(b)and (c): Air India has already closed down eight offices in Europe viz. Birmingham, Manchester, Rome, Nice, Lyons,Warsaw, Budapest and Prague.

In Birmingham and Manchester, sales and marketing work is being looked after by the consolidators and in other places by the local IATA (International Air Transport Association) approved travel agents.

The airline industry was reeling under the effects of the global economic slowdown during 2001-02, due to which the international air traffic had been adversely affected. The terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001 in the US compounded the problem further resulting in a crisis situation for the world airlines. Air India too was affected by these developments and in order to effect stringent cost control measures, several steps were taken which included closing down/downsizing of Air India offices.

Indian Airlines is neither operating any services to Europe nor having any offices in Europe.

(d): No,Sir.

(e) : Does not arise.